



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 24, 1992

Mr. Charles Karakashian, Jr.  
Assistant General Counsel  
Texas Dept. of Public Safety  
5805 N. Lamar Blvd.-Box 4087  
Austin, Texas 78773-0001

OR92-362

Dear Mr. Karakashian:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V.T.C.S. Your request was assigned ID# 16366.

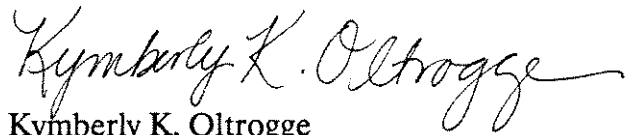
The Texas Department of Public Safety received an open records request for, *inter alia*, the amount of money the department paid to informants in the course of a recent narcotics investigation in Brewster County. You contend that this information comes under the protection of sections 3(a)(3) and 3(a)(8) of the Open Records Act. We note that the request appears to be in the form of interrogatories. Although the act does not require a governmental body to prepare new information or to answer factual questions, *see* Open Records Decision No. 347 (1982), some compilation of computer information may be required under the act. Attorney General Opinion JM-672 (1987). In this instance you inform us that you have "computed" the requested information.

In Open Records Decision No. 143 (1976), this office determined that the cost and description of electronic eavesdropping equipment owned by a police department constituted law enforcement records that dealt with the detection, investigation, and prosecution of crime and thus came under the protection of section 3(a)(8). Similarly, this office believes that releasing to the public the amounts the department has paid to informants during a particular narcotics investigation would interfere unduly with law enforcement efforts by either hampering the prosecution of the pending criminal charges that have been filed as a result of the investigation or compromising the effectiveness of other informants by revealing how much the department paid in this particular instance. Accordingly, the depart-

ment may withhold this information pursuant to section 3(a)(8). We therefore need not address your section 3(a)(3) claims.

Because case law and prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please refer to OR92-362.

Yours very truly,



Kimberly K. Oltrogge  
Assistant Attorney General  
Opinion Committee

KKO/RWP/lmm

Ref.: ID# 16366

cc: Mr. Gordon Haire  
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